SUBJECT No. 56.

Enhancement of the scale of potgi of shanbhogs and patels.

Messrs. Srinivas Sitaram Kulkarni, Harihar Sub-Taluk; Nanja Gowda and Shanbhog Sinappa, Krishnarajpete Taluk; and Chenna Basappa Gowda, Nagar Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The scale of remuneration to patels and shanbhogs at Rs. 4 and Rs. 3 per cent, respectively, on the total amount of jamabandi of each village, was fixed by Government in the Potgi Rules 30 years ago. The Government, having recognised the changes in the economic conditions of the country, have been pleased to raise the pay of the officials of the several Departments. It is therefore prayed that the scale of Rs. 4 and Rs. 3 per cent to patels and shanbhogs now in force under the Potgi Rules may be raised to Rs. 5 and 4, respectively. In taluks where the revised settlement has been introduced, the potgi should be revised according to the revised settlement collections.

The member for the Nagar Taluk urges in general terms that the potgi of the patels may be increased and their powers enhanced.

Reply of Government.—The rates are sufficiently high and cannot be raised. Nearly 8·09 per cent of the revenue collection is paid as potgi. The potgi is revised once in ten years and oftener, if necessary.

SUBJECT No. 57.

Shanbhogs' potgi not to be less than Rs. 12 per mensem.

Mr. Srinivas Sitaram Kulkarni, Harihar Sub-Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The shanbhog is required to prepare all the accounts for each village in his circle; but the potgi is calculated not by each village but upon the revenue of all the villages in the circle put together. It is therefore prayed that a circle may be so constituted that the aggregate potgi for it may not fall short of Rs. 12 per mensem.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 58.

Appointment of Brahmin patels.

Mr. Rama Rao, Malur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—According to a Chief Commissioner's circular, it is ordered that patels to be newly appointed ought not to be Brahmins. It is requested that this restriction may be removed.

Reply of Government.—There is nothing in the Chief Commissioner's circular to prevent the appointment of Brahmins as patels if they have a hereditary right or in filling up temporary vacancies if found to be otherwise most eligible.

SUBJECT No. 59.

A patel to be in charge of one or more villages.

Mr. Dodvenkatarama Reddi, Chintamani Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The rules require that there must be one patel for each village. In the case of bechirakh and other small villages, the potgi of which is very insignificant, it is not possible to secure competent men for the work. In His Majesty's territory, a Village Magistrate is appointed for many villages of large extent. It is requested that a patel may be allowed to be in charge of one or more villages, at least in convenient places.

Reply of Government.—In the case of small villages, situated near each other in the malnad and other sparsely populated parts of the State where the relaxation is possible without affecting efficiency, a relaxation of the present rule will be permitted in special cases.

SUBJECT NO. 60.

Remuneration to patels for doing Excise work, such as recovering arrack revenue.

Mr. Rama Rao, Malur Taluk, and Mr. Veerappa Reddi, Bangalore Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The question of extra remuneration to patels for receiving from vendors the price of and duty on arrack in villages where there are bonded depots and remitting the same to the Taluk Treasury, may be favourably considered.

Reply of Government.—The question is under consideration.

SUBJECT NO. 61.

Mirasis to patels and shanbhogs of Jodi villages.

Mr. Surappa, Tumkur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—It is prayed that orders may be issued for the collection, as land revenue arrears, of the mirasis due to patels and shanbhogs of Jodi villages. Much civil litigation would thereby be avoided.

Reply of Government.—Patels and shanbhogs are entitled to potgi and not miras. Under Notification No. R. 7642, dated 20th December 1905, the remuneration payable to a village officer, if not paid by the Inamdar or other person bound to pay the same, may be recovered from him as an arrear of land revenue.

SUBJECT NO. 62.

(*a*) Cash remuneration in place of present miras to totis and talaris.

Mr. Srinivas Sitaram Kulkarni, Harihar Sub-Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) The existing rules provide that occupants of lands must pay grain to the totis and talaris at three seers per acre on account of their miras; but there are no accounts kept to show that every raiyat pays his portion. This has given rise to disputes between the raiyats and the totis and talaris; and government work also suffers. It is therefore prayed that a miras cess of one anna per acre be ordered to be recovered from each raiyat along with kandayam and the amount disbursed to these totis and talaris from the Treasury direct.

(*b*) Remuneration to totis and talaris to be paid by Government.

Mr. A. Ramappa, Nagar Taluk.

(*b*) Totis and Talaris are appointed to do government work and their pay should therefore be paid by Government. It is a hardship to levy "Aya" from the raiyats in addition to land revenue.

(*c*) Toti and talari miras to be reduced and that of nirgantis raised.

Messrs. Guruva Reddi, Bangalore Taluk; Shanbhog Naraharaiya and Patel Chennalingappa, Nelamangala Taluk; and Rama Rao, Tumkur Municipality.

(*c*) The miras allowed at present to the totis and talaris is too much in view of the separate land inams allowed to them and the small amount of work done by them. The same may be reduced.

The prayer made last year that miras levied from the raiyats be reduced and commuted into a money payment may be granted early.

The allowance to nirgantis may be increased on account of the difficult nature of their work.